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FEBRUARY ORDINARY MEETING.

Important Notice.

We regret to have to announce that it has been necessary to abandon the meeting fixed for February 21st at the Bromley Library, Poplar, owing to the fact that the Library is still in the hands of the builders.

PROPOSED AFFILIATION WITH THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

A special general meeting will be held at St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., on **Wednesday, February 7th**, at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of considering the proposal to affiliate with the Library Association, and as this question is one of great importance it is hoped that there will be a large and representative gathering of members.

Those who are present will have an opportunity of discussing the question in all its bearings, but it has been thought advisable briefly to outline the events which have rendered this meeting necessary.

The Library Association, anxious to incorporate all library societies and associations, issued in January, 1905, a circular letter of enquiry to all such bodies, including the Library Assistants' Association. The particulars asked for were as to membership, funds, aims, etc. This communication also invited the L.A.A. to send a representative to a meeting of delegates called for the purpose of deciding the terms to be laid down as the basis of such affiliation. Mr. Evan G. Rees was unanimously elected, and attended the meeting of delegates on March 3rd, 1905. He reported that the meeting decided to recommend the following resolutions to the Council of the Library Association:—

- (a) Agreement as to the desirability of closer relationship between the Library Association and allied bodies.
- (b) Annual capitation grant to be made by the Library Association to affiliated bodies; such to be 2s. for each member of the affiliated body who is a full member of the Library Association, and 1s. for each other member.
- (c) The privilege of members of affiliated bodies being permitted to attend ordinary meetings of the Library Association, but without power to vote.
- (d) The affiliated bodies to submit to the Library Association annual balance sheets and reports, together with copies of important resolutions carried at general meetings.

Our delegate was further informed that affiliation would in no way interfere with the internal management of a branch, which would still have its own officers, committee, rules, etc., and publish its own journal as at present.

These recommendations came before the Council of the Library Association on April 17th, 1905, and on April 20th the following letter was received by our Secretary:—

I am directed by the Council [of the Library Association] to inform you that after fully considering the subject of Branch Associations, their constitution, status, need, etc., they have resolved to make a capitation

grant to every local branch of 2s. a head on behalf of each annual subscriber to the Library Association, being a member of such local branch, *provided* that the minimum subscription paid by members be equal to the grant made by the Library Association, and that the constitution of each branch shall not conflict with the bye-laws of the Library Association.

Each branch will be required to submit an annual report of their work, including the resolutions carried at meetings; a list of the papers read; and an audited balance sheet of receipts and expenditure. All members of branch associations will be allowed the privilege of attending the monthly meetings of the Library Association, but without the right of voting unless they are also members of the Library Association.

Yours faithfully,

L. INKSTER, Hon. Sec.

By a considerable majority the L.A.A. Committee resolved that it could not recommend the L.A.A. to accept affiliation with the Library Association on the terms stated above; but that the Library Association be asked to set forth for our consideration an estimate of the advantages to be gained by affiliation.

This request led to an interview, which took place on September 27th, 1905, between Mr. Jast, the present Hon. Sec. of the Library Association, and four members of our Committee (Messrs. Chambers, Harris, Roebuck and Thorne), elected for the purpose.

To this meeting Mr. Jast explained that (apart from the monetary advantages afforded by the capitation grant) the benefits would be:—

The establishment of official channels of communication.

The support of the various Committees of the Library Association, *i.e.*, Education, Parliamentary, etc.

The enhanced standing arising from systematised association with other bodies interested in, or having for their *raison d'être*, the furtherance of our common aims.

It was further explained:—

That the terms submitted are common to all such bodies, outside the Library Association, and must form the basis of affiliation.

That members subscribing to the Library Association would include Associate members.

That (if affiliated) the L.A.A. could not look for direct representation on the Library Association Council or Education Committee.

That (if affiliated) the L.A.A. would remain as now, but would receive the benefits outlined above.

The result of this interview was reported to the L.A.A. Committee on October 25th, 1905, and three of the delegates expressed the opinion that there was not sufficient benefit to justify affiliation. With this opinion Mr. Harris was not associated. The delegates' report was freely discussed, and a motion was put "That the L.A.A. be recommended to affiliate with the Library Association upon the terms outlined in the letter received from them on April 20th." The voting on this was equal, and a division, with the same result, was recorded. A subsequent motion "That the whole matter be referred to a special general meeting" was carried. It is in furtherance of the latter resolution that the meeting on February 7th has been called. Members are therefore urged to attend, as the result will determine the future standing of the Library Assistants' Association.

JANUARY MEETING.

A meeting of the Association was held at the Canning Town Library on Wednesday, January 17th, by kind invitation of Mr. S. A. Hatcher (Librarian). We have previously had occasion to refer to the success

which invariably attends West Ham meetings, and although the attendance at the meeting under notice was slightly smaller than usual the proceedings were in every way as successful as at former meetings. Mr. Hatcher had kindly provided light refreshments, which were served both before and after the meeting.

The junior paper announced in the programme was one by Mr. E. J. Bell on "Newsrooms." Unfortunately Mr. Bell found himself unable to fulfil his engagement, and Mr. J. D. Young kindly agreed to fill the gap and to write on the same subject. His paper was as follows:—

NEWSROOMS, THEIR REQUIREMENTS AND SERVICE.

By JAMES D. YOUNG, Fulham Public Libraries.

In the year 1850 the first Public Libraries Act was passed. During the discussions which preceded the passing of this Act Mr. Labouchere said that "nothing could be more visionary than that these libraries would be . . . mere receptacles for newspapers." In the main Mr. Labouchere's statement has been justified, but there is one department which is still very frequently subjected to unfavourable criticism, and perhaps not without justice. This department is the newsroom.

The type of periodicals provided in our present-day newsrooms is too well known to justify anyone going into particulars, but if a change in this matter were generally to take place I think that most of the solid reasons for objecting to the newsroom would disappear. Firstly, only the best daily papers should be taken. If no halfpenny papers were admitted there would be considerably less embarrassment of choice than at present prevails. Next should be added a few good provincial dailies and one or two respectable French, German, and perhaps also American weeklies or bi-weeklies. Good trade and technical papers should appear in large numbers. Scientific and artistic papers, both English and foreign, should always be in evidence. A good selection of the monthly and quarterly reviews ought to be provided. Here again the choice should be international, and not strictly insular. No paper of an exclusively frivolous type should be tolerated.

If this course of procedure were adopted many people might contend that the result would be merely to drive away such people as at present frequent our newsrooms and leave this department quite empty and useless. Their mode of reasoning is as follows: Many papers of a quite serious type are already taken, and at the end of the week, month or quarter when the new ones arrive the old ones are removed from the tables almost in as good a condition as the new. The public have already had a chance of reading such periodicals, and have not availed themselves largely of it; *ergo* they never will. But there are flaws in this logic. In the first place those superior periodicals are generally printed on better paper, and are altogether finer in their "get up" than their disreputable brethren, and so they do not show the wear and tear of life so palpably. Then the people who use them are not so slovenly and careless. Further, the better class papers suffer from being found in bad company. What is wanted is that the tone of the newsroom should be improved, and in order to do this much of the light current literature, which is in itself frequently quite harmless, will have to be removed, as it attracts the undesirable class which at present positively haunts our public libraries. After the tone of the newsroom has been somewhat improved there is no doubt that it will be frequented by many people who at present consider it *infra dignitatem* to go there. Of course the newsroom in its modern style is very popular, but with what class of people is it popular? Is it an influential class? Is it even a modestly ratepaying class?

One great trouble which the librarian has always to face is from well-meaning people who desire to present copies of certain periodicals to

the library. I have examined many lists of such presented papers, and have come to the conclusion that, for the most part, they are of no use whatever in a public newsroom.

It is a great convenience to the public to keep one table of the newsroom apart for time-tables, which are generally presented by the railway companies. It seems however, hardly necessary to display excursion bills, as these become scattered about the room.

The periodicals should be, to a certain extent, in accordance with the locality in which the library is situated. Local conditions must always be given the utmost attention.

Having discussed the sort of papers which the newsroom ought to contain, let us consider the sort of room in which they should be housed. Until now it has been a very general custom to devote the finest room in the library to this purpose. This has been, I think, one of the greatest mistakes of which early librarians and committees have been guilty. The largest, best lighted and quietest room ought to be used for the reference library. When the number of periodicals is cut down to the truly useful a comparatively small room will be sufficient, and the newsroom will not be, as is at present frequently the case, one half, or even more, of the total size of the library. Great care should be taken to ensure good lighting. The windows should be large, and of the kind which open and shut. It is an excellent plan, where it is possible, to have windows in the roof. As an artificial illuminant electricity, although expensive and occasionally troublesome, is probably the best. The room should be heated by hot water pipes, but when artificial heating is necessary, the temperature should never be allowed to be above 60deg. Fahrenheit. Under the new régime the ladies' room may, I think, be done away with. If the present undesirable newsroom habitué be no longer catered for and a more respectable class of frequenter attracted in his stead, then I think the necessity of special rooms for ladies will no longer be felt. The magazine room is another item which, in the future, may be dispensed with. It must be remembered that every room necessitates special attendants if the library is to be satisfactorily managed, and it is therefore an extremely expensive policy to have many small rooms instead of one or two large ones.

The furniture which should be put in a public newsroom must vary greatly according to circumstances. Money, or lack of it, is of course the great deciding factor. The newspapers should be exposed on slopes running round the walls, as this allows for much better oversight than having the newspaper stands placed at right-angles to the wall. The order of arranging the papers on the slope, although apparently a very trifling matter, is really worthy of some consideration. The great thing is to avoid congestion. If an evening paper is placed next to a morning paper, then a provincial paper, and after that an illustrated weekly or continental bi-weekly, the little knots of people which congregate round certain papers at different times in the day are separated, instead of being brought closely together, and forming something approaching to a crowd. The tables should be placed up the centre of the room, and at every table a framed card should be fixed giving a list of the periodicals on that table. Between the tables ample gangway should be allowed. If the space at the disposal of a librarian for newsroom purposes be small, a rack should be placed at one end of the room in which should be shown all the lesser used periodicals. Racks are, however, at the best untidy things, as readers will not take the trouble to replace papers after they have finished reading them. The chairs used should be good substantial articles of furniture. It is not the present custom to supply armchairs in the newsroom, but if this department be made a sort of up-to-date annexe of the reference and lending libraries—and this is what I think it ought to be—then I see no

reason why they should not be introduced. If the newsroom is altered on the plans already laid down it will be a smaller and less costly, though infinitely more useful, department than it has been in the past, so that the quality of its furniture and fittings may be in a much superior style. Many libraries have stands on which to fix the coloured supplements which frequently arrive with such papers as the "Bookman" or "Graphic," and this is an excellent plan.

The best method of arranging papers on the tables is a subject upon which there is much diversity of opinion. One plan is to put all the papers that come on Monday on Table I., those that come on Tuesday on Table 2, and so on. This is hardly idealistic. Another plan is to arrange them in one complete alphabetical sequence, starting at one end of the room with "Academy," and finishing at the other end with "Zoophilist." This arrangement makes it easy to find a given paper, but otherwise seems very unsatisfactory. I think the best plan is to arrange according to some rough scheme of classification: art journals on one table, literary reviews on the next, and so on. A suggestion has been made that periodicals placed on a certain table should have covers of a distinctive colour. By this means any displacement of a paper could be at once remedied, but it is quite possible that after a few months' wear, all the covers would have turned to a sober and uniform black. In order that periodicals may be rapidly distinguished it is a good plan to paste the outside sheets of the periodicals on the covers in which they are to be found. This is more economical than having the titles printed in gold; the papers can easily be replaced; and it is far more effective in attracting the attention of the readers. To facilitate the finding of the various periodicals, some libraries fix the covers containing them to the tables by means of a cord or chain. This method has advantages, but it is questionable if they compensate for its disadvantages. If followed it means that the number of periodicals laid on a table is limited to the sitting accommodation of that table. This is not economising space, and it occasionally happens that people of objectionable exterior find their way into our public newsrooms, and other readers should not be compelled to sit next to such individuals. If a library buys valuable periodicals which would be likely to receive too hard treatment if placed on the tables in the ordinary way, readers should be requested to apply for such papers at the counter. The same rule might apply to certain other journals which, for various reasons, it would be undesirable to place on the public tables. Sometimes a file of about a week's daily papers is left in a rack in the reading room. This probably saves the assistants some little trouble, and the public some little impatience. Finally, the periodicals taken must be properly indexed. Without this all else is vain, or very nearly so. The titles of the periodicals should be arranged in alphabetical order, and after each title should appear the number of the table or stand, or some other mark to show the location. This list should be printed and framed and hung up in some prominent part of the room.

What sort of rules shall be placed in our public newsrooms? Practically the only regulations which must be enforced are those necessary to keep silence and to prevent any evil-minded reader from maltreating the periodicals. Most libraries have in their regulations a clause to the effect that any person in an uncleanly condition will be excluded from the newsroom, and this rule should be enforced. Sleepers should be awakened gently and conducted out politely. Trouble is frequently caused by several people wishing to read the same paper at the same time, and as a rule the trouble is caused over periodicals which it would be better not to take. If a reader is perusing some serious article it is unfair to ask him to give up his paper under, say, half an hour. The uniformed porter is the person

generally applied to by readers to solve such disputes, but he should have strict instructions to consult some superior officer of the staff in any matter of difficulty. The newsroom attendant is a being who is sometimes given to thinking that the properties of both watchdog and public censor are vested in his own immaculate person. Such ideas should be sternly suppressed by the librarian, and he should be taught due humility. It does not seem to me to be a good plan to exclude young people, generally called juveniles or children, entirely from the newsroom. Certainly, boys and girls of fourteen years and over should be admitted. Some libraries make sixteen years the minimum, but this exclusiveness seems altogether ridiculous.

The customary hours during which the newsroom is open are from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. This appears to be long enough to satisfy most people. But there is another way of looking at this question. The newsroom is only a subsidiary department of a library. If it be considered desirable to close the principal departments, i.e., the lending and reference libraries, at 9 p.m., and this is a very usual plan, then it is difficult to see any logical reason for keeping the lesser department open till 10 p.m.

Discussion.

Mr. Bolton remarked on the number of papers which were presented to most libraries and which were certainly not worth having. He considered the newsroom a subsidiary department, and thought it should only be open from about 6 o'clock in the evening, as only loungers frequented the room in the morning and afternoon. The persons who made use of the newsroom were largely drawn from the artisan class, who were not free until after five or six o'clock. He considered that the expenditure on newsrooms was too heavy.

Mr. A. F. Hatcher said that if the newsroom was only open in the evening the public would be debarred from consulting the advertisements. The classification of papers, he thought, would lead to that overcrowding at certain tables which it was desired to prevent.

Mr. Mash did not think that religious papers should be purchased. A good supply of technical papers was most important. It was not desirable to provide tables in the newsroom, as they were an inducement to loafers.

Mr. White referred to the question of blacking out. If, he said, one practice was adopted from the moral point of view, it was good, but if it was because betting men caused conversation it was unnecessary, as more talking was indulged in by those consulting the advertisements.

Mr. Perry said only the best periodicals in each class should be provided, and they should be made to supplement the books in the lending library. If *jd.* papers were excluded from the newsroom many readers would be deprived of the opportunity of reading some of the best daily papers.

Mr. Roebuck urged that many persons who frequented newsrooms were not book readers, and they must not forget that such persons existed. He objected to the term "loafer." If there was loafing in the newsroom it was to the shame of the library staff.

Mr. Sayers said that if the newsroom would not stand the light of public opinion it should not exist. He objected to blacking out. There was no reason for it, as libraries did not get their papers early enough to supply the betting man with the information he required.

Mr. Gates, Mr. S. A. Hatcher and others also took part in the discussion.

The following paper was then read:—

LIBRARY LECTURES AND EXTENSION WORK.

By C. F. NEWCOMBE, Camberwell Public Libraries.

Lectures in connection with libraries, or in libraries, are now a familiar part of library work all over the kingdom from, say, those given almost nightly at the Picton Reading Room in Liverpool with seating accommodation for very large audiences, to those given at weekly or monthly intervals at Stoke Newington, Southwark and Croydon.

The question is sometimes asked by the carping critic who is discouraged by the smallness of an audience, or the difficulties entailed in the work of organisation: Do lectures help library efficiency? Another grumbles at the expense entailed, cost of printing, etc. I once heard it advanced that lectures are the laziest form of receiving instruction, and there are many people who hold this view. There is a great deal of truth in this argument if you apply it to, say, an undergraduate attending a course of lectures from an uninspiring professor when he knows that it is only by mastery of his text-books in the quiet of his study that he really gains the facts he wants to enable him to pass an examination. But the lecturer who can, and I maintain, does help us in our work as librarians is the man who gives out his knowledge in such a way as to open the eyes of our readers, and make them see how much pleasure there is to be got out of some forms of reading or study, if approached in the spirit of enthusiasm and interest in which the lecturer has approached it. You all know that the readers with whom as assistants you daily come into contact are composed of the educated, the half educated, the quarter educated, and the reader of comparatively no education at all. Throw your net as wide as possible, and remember that among your readers you will always find those who care not only to listen to lectures, but who see at once the value of following out a course of reading suggested by a sympathetic lecturer. And here the element of personality comes in. Books in themselves are powerless to influence a large class of minds—minds that do not know how to use books in such a manner as to get the best out of them, but in forming your programme of a series of lectures your first aim is to get the men who can really speak with authority on their subjects; their personality in itself is sufficient to stimulate the dull and unthinking, it acts as an irritant and turns the attention of the self-satisfied and commonplace reader to better and higher reading.

In 1900, at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association at Bristol, I gave an account of the Library Readers' Union at Toynbee Hall as then existing, and showed how our plan was to hold fortnightly meetings which took the form of the reading of a paper followed by discussion. The reader of the paper chose for his subject a great man of letters, or some famous book. Every facility was given to readers that they might have the opportunity of reading or re-reading, prior to the meeting, the book with which the reader of the paper proposed to deal, and the book or books were kept aside for reference purposes. The plan was also tried of asking readers to write on a slip of paper the name of an author or a particular book which they would like to talk about. A ballot was then taken and the writer or book receiving the largest number of votes was chosen for discussion at the next meeting. Our audiences were small, never numbering more than 50. Library Readers' Unions have since been formed in the Borough of Stepney Libraries, where they have been successful.

There will always be differences of opinion in every department of library work. Some libraries favour lectures on a big scale, presided over by a prominent local man, but for my own part I value what I may call small chamber or drawing-room lectures, and for the past three years it has been my privilege to arrange a series of monthly lectures at Cam-

bridge House in Camberwell, the University Settlement for South London which is also in close proximity to the North Camberwell Library. It is always a good plan to make the subjects of your lectures illustrate the association of some noted man of letters, inventor, or scientist with the particular neighbourhood in which your library is situated. Our first series in 1903 I will give as an illustration: "Browning and Camberwell," "Edward Alleyn and the drama," and "Michael Faraday." Browning, Alleyn and Faraday were all closely associated either by birth or residence with South London. Our second year's subjects were "Shakespeare and Southwark"; "Chaucer and Southwark"; "Wren and Camberwell"; and "Ruskin and Denmark Hill." Our subjects this year are similar. The attendance at these lectures has been small, varying from 15 to 30, and in some respects such an attendance might be considered discouraging, but to me it does not seem so at all. Our plan has been to obtain the names and addresses of all who attend by passing round a book for signature. Reference is always made to books or lists of books in any of our libraries in the borough, and those who attend the lectures are in the habit of using the libraries. What strikes one is the loyalty of those who attend. Many of the original band who were interested in the lectures three years ago come regularly now, and so far as one is able to judge link their reading with the subjects of the lectures. But my point is—and to this I attach great importance—you are banding together a little body of your readers for purposes of culture. You are aiming not at the more popular lecture (which I do not for one moment wish to disparage) but are welding into the minds of a section of your readers the idea that the library to them really does stand for the dissemination of the best in literature and science. There will always be a conflict of ideals in all suggestions that are brought forward for the good of your library, one man liking "popular" lectures and large audiences, crying out that he wants to have what he calls "working class" audiences, while another raises the cry that it is not within the scope of our duty as librarians to aim at being educationalists, and that we are better employed in confining ourselves to the ordinary routine work of the library. That seems to me to be a lazy policy. In spite of difficulties and inconveniences which may arise in the preparations for the lectures as they come round at weekly, fortnightly or monthly intervals, I still believe that the pleasure which the lectures give rewards us for any sacrifice which has to be made, or difficulties which have to be overcome. There are many ways of extending the usefulness of the library. From my own personal experience I should like to speak of the service which the local clergy and nonconformist ministers are often able to render by co-operating with us in inserting lists of recent additions to the library in their church magazines, should the library not possess a magazine of its own.

By library extension work I feel that it is always possible to bring the work of our libraries, their contents and fresh additions, before the notice of various local bodies, be they political clubs, literary and debating societies, schools, churches or chapels. It is the method of business. Every good business house is constantly advertising itself and you must bring business methods to bear upon library administration. I have no faith whatever in the visionary if a man is a visionary only. Mere theory is valueless in library work as in every other branch of the public service, and surely it is by the practical application of ideals and the constant reiteration of what you believe in that your library administration is raised to a higher level, and your own readers—the public with whom you have to deal every day—seeing that you are anxious to follow a high public opinion rather than a low public opinion will slowly come round to your view. Nothing to my mind is more disheartening than low public opinion, and the mischief it does in municipal administration is sometimes a very

serious mischief. Mr. William Archer, writing recently on his subject, the Drama, uses for his purpose the phrase "the sense of greatness keeps a nation great," and points out that in relation to the drama the converse is true, "the sense of meanness keeps the drama mean." Apply this principal to your library lectures and see that the subjects about which your lecturers are asked to talk are mainly the eternally great in literature, and above all that they speak with authority. Be satisfied with small audiences; rather aim at getting together the few who are faithful. There are to-day so many forms of educational activity in London that one must recognise that it is impossible to expect success in the form of figures and hugeness in audiences.

Will you allow me to use the privilege of experience to advise the members of the Library Assistants' Association to cultivate the sense of co-operation and mutual courtesy as members of library staffs. There is no monopoly in ideas. Ideas like trade should be free, but wherever possible have the courtesy to acknowledge to whom you are indebted for a fresh idea in library work. You each may stimulate one another, and it is by a system of give and take, and the keeping in the background of the "I" "I" of the egoist that overmastering domination is shown to be silly and futile; while to practise the arts of tact, diplomacy and good feeling will alone push forward the real value of your work, and give pleasure to the public whom you serve and to yourselves as co-workers in the profession which you have chosen to follow.

Discussion.

Mr. Sayers in opening the discussion remarked on the high literary tone of the paper to which they had just listened, and said it exhibited a thorough-going optimism. He thought library lectures were of value in that they served to link the library with the public. Further, lectures were an advertisement for the library. The lectures should be about books, and books only; other subjects were outside the scope of the library. He strongly advocated lectures for children and a home reading union in connection with the library. Another useful method of extending the work of the library was by book exhibitions on various subjects—one week on furniture, another on birds, another on some phase of art or on artists. Certain members of the staff might qualify themselves to explain the relative merits of the books exhibited. In connection with their lectures at Croydon they allowed any person resident in the borough to take away any book on the subject simply upon signing a slip. They risked losing the books because they secured new readers, but so far no books had been lost. He agreed with Mr. Newcombe that there should not be any monopoly of ideas. From the youngest member of the staff to the oldest each should be on the look out for something new in connection with his particular work.

Mr. Stephen said that the question propounded, Do lectures help library efficiency? could not be answered in a direct affirmative or negative. It depended upon several things: the sort of lecture, the subject, the lecturer, and his method and style of delivery. The library and the lecture room must be co-ordinated if the best and most efficient work was to be done. There was much diversity of opinion as to the kind of lecture that should be given. Some believe that the University Extension scheme of arranging courses on one subject is the best, while others consider that better work is done by the single popular lecture. Certain it was that the sphere of influence of the former was confined to a much smaller section of the community than the latter. The University Extension lectures were not suitable for the average man but only for students, who formed about 20 per cent. of the borrowers, so that a course on one subject would at most only meet the requirements of 5 per cent. At Bishopsgate single

popular lectures by the leading lecturers of the day had proved more successful than courses on one subject.

Mr. Bursill thought the difficulty of arranging lectures in connection with branch libraries was that few branches had lecture rooms, and if the lectures were held in the newsroom, the regular readers would be deprived of the use of the room. The library should have a notice board on which could be posted notices of all the intellectual activities in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Coutts said that it was most important that the lecturer should be a man who could interest his audience—it was not sufficient that he should be simply learned. The lecturer might be asked to refer, in the course of his lecture, to the books relative to his subject, and it was a good idea to have a lantern slide made with the titles of the books contained in the library dealing with the subject.

Mr. Shawcross maintained that if the money expended on the lectures was money that should be spent on books, then lectures should not be given, as the library should not suffer.

Mr. Roebuck said that extension work was always in his mind; he used the term in the sense that architects used it—something added. Mr. Bursill had referred to the posting up of notices of the various activities in the vicinity of the library, but the question was what notices should be exhibited. It would be difficult to draw the line. He fully agreed with Mr. Newcombe that lectures were of decided value to libraries.

Messrs. Perry, A. F. Hatcher and others continued the discussion.

Votes of thanks were accorded to Messrs. Young and Newcombe for their very interesting papers, and to Mr. Hatcher for his kindness in entertaining the members at Canning Town. Thus a most enjoyable and highly profitable evening was brought to a close.

THE THOMAS GREENWOOD LIBRARY FOR LIBRARIANS.

The announcement that Mr. Thomas Greenwood has recently handed over to the Manchester Public Free Libraries his magnificent Library of nearly ten thousand volumes is good news for librarians and library assistants. The collection is henceforth to be known as "The Greenwood Library for Librarians," and although housed at Manchester will be available to librarians and students all over the country. Further, it is Mr. Greenwood's intention to provide, by a generous endowment, for the future extension of what is already one of the largest collections of its kind in existence. Mr. Greenwood's idea has been to bring together such books as may be of professional service to librarians, and the result is that every department of bibliographical science is represented. There are the writings of the great bibliographers, Brunet, Watt, De Bure, David, Clement, Dibdin, Quérard and others, and also smaller monographs including a long series of the essays of Peignot. In addition there are bibliographies of individual authors, including Coleridge, Molière, Ruskin, Browning and Rossetti; sets of bibliographical magazines; and books like the "English Catalogue" and the "Bibliographie de la France" which record the publications of particular countries. A wealth of books about printing, historical and practical, engraving and allied arts, has been provided. The Library is rich in its collection of catalogues of MSS., and contains actual specimens of the beautiful work of the monks, while almost every kind of literary curiosity is represented, books printed on rice paper, books printed on vellum, and a remarkably fine example in ivory of a horn book.

The collection is to be catalogued by Mr. W. E. A. Axon (to whose

article in the Manchester Public Libraries Quarterly Record we are indebted for the above particulars), and when this is completed it is hoped that some arrangement will be made whereby librarians may gain access to the books.

THE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Committee was held at the Shoreditch Central Library, Pitfield Street, N., on Wednesday evening, January 24th. Mr. W. Geo. Chambers presided, and there were present Messrs. Bullen, Bursill, Coutts, Green, Harris, S. A. Hatcher, Poulter, Sayers, Smith, Stephen, Thorne, Roebuck (Hon. Sec.) and three junior co-opted members, Messrs. A. F. Hatcher, Henley and Loney.

It was resolved to publish in the March number of "The Library Assistant" a full report of the debate on affiliation to be held on February 7th, and to issue with the same number ballot papers, in order that every member of the Association may have an opportunity of voting on the matter.

Other formal business was dealt with.

PRESENTATION TO MR. A. COTGREAVE.

Mr. A. Cotgreave, F.R.Hist.S., who recently retired from the position of Chief Librarian of the West Ham Public Libraries owing to indifferent health, has been the recipient of a handsomely illuminated address from the members of the Society of Public Librarians, of which he was a member. He has also been elected an honorary member of that Society.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

CROYDON PUBLIC LIBRARIES: The Reader's Index, Vol. 8, No. 1.—Contains a short but extremely interesting article by Mr. J. D. Stewart on some notable books in various branches of knowledge published during the past year.

FINSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARIES: Quarterly Guide, January, 1906.—This issue marks a new departure as the guide is in future to be distributed gratuitously. The Committee hopes by this means to render the Libraries more extensively serviceable to all classes. The present number is specially interesting to library assistants inasmuch as it contains a select list of the works contained in the libraries on historical and practical printing, book illumination and illustration, methods of publishing, copyright, and historical and practical bookbinding, many of which are recommended to students entering for the examinations of the Library Association. We understand that Mr. Cannons (the Librarian) will be pleased to forward copies of the guide to any assistants who will send him a stamp for postage.

MANCHESTER PUBLIC FREE LIBRARIES: Quarterly Record, Vol. 9, No. 3.—Contains a classified list [Dewey] of the books placed in the Reference Library from July to September inclusive, 1905, and a descriptive article by Mr. W. E. A. Axon on "The Thomas Greenwood Library for Librarians."

STEPNEY PUBLIC LIBRARIES: Library for the Blind, 236, Cable Street, E. List of the embossed books provided for the free use of the Blind.—This list, arranged in dictionary form, extends to 12 pages, and represents a very varied collection of books. Following the entry is given, in brackets, information as to the type in which each book is printed—whether Braille or Moon. Mr. Alon M. Moslin, the Sub-Librarian, has been responsible for the compilation of the list.

WESTMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARIES: Catalogue of books in the lending department of the Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.—One of the best specimens of the dictionary form of catalogue we have seen for some time.

WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY: Classified list of books on Literature, Poetry and the Drama.—An excellent little list, arranged on the Dewey Decimal system, with indexes of authors and subjects. There are no annotations, but contents of books are set out very fully.

We have also received the Bodleian Library Staff-Kalendar for 1906; reports from St. Helens, Westminster, Kimberley and Manchester; and library magazines from Bootle, Willesden Green and Wisconsin.

NEW MEMBERS.

Senior: Mr. Horace Barlow, London Library.

Junior: Messrs. Tom P. Greig and W. S. Miles, both of St. Martin's Public Library, W.C.

APPOINTMENTS.

POMFRET, Mr. J., Assistant Librarian, Blackburn, to be Chief Librarian, Darwen.

*ROBINSON, Mr. S. C., Assistant, Bromley Library, Poplar, to be Chief Assistant, Greenwich.

*YOUNG, Mr. J. D., Senior Assistant, Fulham, to be Sub-Librarian, Greenwich.

*COUTTS, Mr. H. T., Librarian-in-Charge, Central Lending Library, Croydon, to be Branch Librarian, Islington.

STEWART, Mr. J. D., Chief Assistant, Central Reference Library, Croydon, to be Chief Assistant, Islington.

JONES, Miss A., Assistant, Finsbury, to be Senior Assistant, Islington.

McNAIRN, Mr. G. S., Librarian, Hawick, to be Librarian, Motherwell.

* Member of the L.A.A.

Notice to Members.

The Committee has for disposal fifty copies of Mr. Frank Campbell's "Remarks addressed to the members of the Library Assistants' Association, September 18th, 1895," 24pp. 8vo. paper, which will be distributed to the first fifty members making application for them and enclosing stamps to the value of 3d. Applications should be addressed to Mr. A. H. Carter (Hon. Librarian, Library Assistants' Association), Public Library, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

To Contributors.

All matter intended for publication, whether in the form of papers read at the meetings of the Association or otherwise, should be legibly written or typed on one side of the paper only. Matter for the March number should reach the Editor not later than February 20th.

ADDRESSES.

Chairman and Hon. Treasurer—Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, Public Library, Plumstead (Telephone—45 Woolwich).

Hon. Secretary—Mr. Geo. E. Roebuck, St. George's Library, 236, Cable Street, E.

Hon. Secretary, Education Sub-Committee—Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, Public Library, Croydon (Telephone—394 Croydon).

Hon. Librarian—Mr. A. H. Carter, Public Library, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

Hon. Editor—Mr. Hugh Smith, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.